

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 MCT-01
A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 /111 W
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P R 301230Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7734
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY BURSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JOHANNESBURG 1356

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLAB, PINS, SHUM, SF, US, UNESCO
SUBJ: POLICE MOVE AGAINST YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS

1. SUMMARY: PHELELO MAGANE, FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT OF THE YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS, AN ORGANIZATION WHICH ASSISTS BLACKS IN LABOR MATTERS AND ADVISES THEM ON THEIR STATUTORY RIGHTS, WAS DETAINED EARLIER THIS MONTH. ON MAY 29, MARCUS RODGERS, A CATHOLIC YOUTH WORKER, WAS DETAINED AT THE YCW OFFICES IN ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL COMPLEX IN CAPE TOWN. YCW CHAPLAIN FATHER G. DEFLEURIOT IS BELIEVED TO BE TRAVELLING IN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE SEEKING ASSISTANCE FROM THE AFL-CIO AND THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO DISCUSS CURRENT POLICE PRESSURE ON YCW WITH AFL-CIO SPOKESMEN, WHO MAY HAVE BEEN
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CONTACTED BY DEFLEURIOT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS MOVEMENT, A CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, HAS BECOME A TARGET FOR SURVEILLANCE BY THE SECURITY POLICE. YCW WAS FOUNDED IN BELGIUM IN 1913 BY CARDINAL JOHSEPH

CARDIIN AND IS BELIEVED TO HAVE LINKS WITH UNESCO. NEITHER A YOUTH CLUB NOR A TRADE UNION, THE YCW HAS SOUGHT, WITHIN THE LAW, TO MAKE BLACK WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA AWARE OF THEIR RIGHTS.

3. IT IS HEADQUARTERED IN DURBAN AND CLAIMS 20 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE NATIONAL CHAPLAIN IS FATHER GERARD DE VLEURIOT, WHO IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE ON A TRIP TO PARIS AND THE UNITED STATES SEEKING ASSISTANCE FROM THE AFL-CIO AND OTHER SOURCES. BANNED TRADE UNION LEADERS ERIC AND JEAN (AMERICAN) TYACKE WERE FORMERLY ACTIVE IN YCW AS A NUMBER OF THE CURRENT BLACK EXECUTIVES OF THE URBAN TRAINING PROJECT HAVE BEEN.

4. ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN THE SUNDAY TIMES, PHELELO MAGAENE, 25, THE FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT OF YCW, WAS ARESTED DURING A POLICE SEARCH EARLIER THIS MONTH OF THE MOVEMENT'S SPRINGS OFFICE. MAGANE, WHO HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY YCW SASOLBURG CHAPLAIN FATHER BEN MULDER AS A GENIUS FOR AVOIDING CONFRONTATION, IS BEING DETAINED INCOMMUNICADO. CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH FITZGERALD HAS PROTESTED MAGANES' DETENTION. THE RAND DAILY MAIL REPORTS THAT AN ADDITIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH WORKER, MR. MARCUS RODGERS, 26, WAS DETAINED BY SECURITY POLICE DURING A RAID ON MAY 29 OF THE YCW OFFICES IN THE ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL COMPLEX IN CAPE TOWN.
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5. DURING A MEETING WITH THE REGIONAL LABOR OFFICER ON APRIL 20, CALVIN NKABINDE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ENGINEERING AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION AND SPRINGS REPRESENTATIVE OF UTP, SAID HE HAD BEEN VISITED BY THE SECURITY POLICE. NKABINDE WAS ASKED WHETHER HE WAS A CATHOLIC. WHEN HE REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY, HIS INTERROGATIONS INDICATED THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SUPPORT OF BLACK WORKERS. OTHER SOURCES ALSO CONFIRM ATTEMPTS BY THE POLICE TO INFILTRATE THE YCW.

6. COMMENT: THE SECURITY POLICE RAID ON YCW IS REMINISCENT OF A SIMILAR MOVE AGAINST THE PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE IN NOVEMBER 1976 WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY THE BANNING OF THE CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE AND 17 BLACK ORGANIZATIONS ON OCTOBER 19, 1977. THIS PRESSURE IS CONTINUING. TWO JOURNALISTS WITH THE BLACK ECUMENICAL NEWSPAPER THE VOICE, MRS. JUBY MAYET AND MR. PHIL MTHIMKULU, WERE DETAINED IN JOHANNESBURG ON MAY 29.

7. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO DISCUSS THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS MESSAGE WITH AFL-CIO SPOKESMEN WHO MAY HAVE BEEN CON-

TACTED BY FATHER DEFLEURIOT.
JOHNSON

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